

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2017

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Concord Municipal Light Plant meeting room. CSEC members present were Brad Hubbard-Nelson (chair), Bruce Blumberg, Bill Lehr (clerk), Gilda Gussin, Janet Miller and Alan Whitney. Also present were Pamela Cady and Concord residents Doug Sharpe and Eric Reinhard.

See Slides (attachment #1, includes Agenda as first slide).

1. Welcome visitors and meeting logistics

- Meeting was convened at 7:00pm

2. Approval of minutes from recent meetings

- Minutes as amended were approved for the prior meeting on February 13, 2017.

3. Next meetings and Announcements

- Tuesday, April 11 at 7pm at Harvey Wheeler.

4. Chair report, announcements:

- There will be changes in CSEC membership. After several years of exemplary service Jill Appel will be leaving the committee, along with several others so we will have multiple vacancies on the committee.
- Future potential roles for CSEC were discussed. Brad noted that educating citizenry and encouraging conservation by Town residents is likely to comprise 50% or more of our effort. It is also expected that CSEC will contribute to policy initiatives and continue to play an important role in liaison with other Town committees to ensure that sustainability principles are being supported. We also expect to contribute to things like Green Communities initiatives going forward. It was stressed that we will need to focus our efforts on areas where CSEC is likely to have a positive impact.
- It was noted that if the EFTF's recommended and Select Board sponsored Article 51 passes at Town meeting, CSEC could expect to work with the newly appointed Energy Director and may play important role in helping to implement the Town's clean energy goals.

5. Cooler Concord fair summary

5.1. Updates: Budget, Meetings

- Jill and Brad met with Diana Rigby and Chris Whelan. They updated Chris on Fair and discussed finances and incentive programs to follow-up. Chris is supportive of this and confirmed that the Town's Sustainability Budget could support these incentives. Remaining budget from Fair is \$3,235 out of original \$25k budget, and expectation is this remainder will be spent on website development. The original quote was \$3,500 which represents slight shortfall. There will be \$5,125 to be distributed to schools. Schools will report back to CSEC to explain what they did with it. 50% is designated for sustainability projects. PPGs will distribute the funds. CSEC could provide some guidance on interesting ideas. Most of the schools have Green Teams that could do this.
- Range of rebate programs, most of which could follow a model as was employed with the GYH weatherization programs.
- Jill and Brad also met with Diana Rigby to thank her for support, but not much concrete came from it. Expectation is to follow-up with new superintendent. Gilda wants to discuss certain specifics with Diana and take advantage of her perspective on how best to engage schools going forward with CSEC. Gilda will follow-up with Diana in April.

5.2. Communications: Survey, MailChimp list (Gilda, Brad)

- Brad sent up MailChimp list from all who attended Fair. Went out on March 3 to all who on the list (60% opened the email, 8% clicked on links, 1 unsubscribe).
- Next anticipated mailing to list will be related to when website is up. Discussion of how much outreach for Article 51 will be appropriate. Concern is that Cooler Concord Fair participants were assured they would not be spammed. Unlikely will use list to advocate for Article 51 unless announcement of website occurs then. Expectation is that will use list for more rebate programs.

5.3. Web site (Brad, Jill, Gilda)

- Meeting with Bartlett Interactive to start WordPress site, in process. Could have monthly communication to list if website is updated monthly. Expect site ready for review 1st or 2nd week of April. Need several volunteers to get material together. Seeking 2-3 participants. Doug, Alan, Janet, and Brad will meet to clean up content for template.

5.4. Follow ups, status updates

- Energy Audits (Pamela) 57 oil or electric (ENE) and 30 natural gas (MassSave) sign-up from Fair. Pam: 49% of those who got GYH audits went forward with weatherization projects. Sage was expensive component of GYH, so may wish to investigate alternative models. MassSave has 0% "heat loan" to support

weatherization or upgrades to high-efficiency systems with up to \$25k and payment periods up to 7 years. Any natural gas customer can take advantage of these programs. Some other Municipal Plants have worked with other banks to explore. We already have electric heat home rebates (50% up to \$1,000) for electric with CMLP. Most of the 57 are oil rebate homes since not many electric. Contract with ENE and energy audits was supposed to come with full LED change out and ENE over-promised with that to modify contract. There is current backlog of 80 homes seeking energy audits that need to be completed and use those as a pilot program and that includes 57 from above. (Energy New England). This will take a few months to get done and how many LED bulbs that includes, etcetera.

- Thermostats (Pamela) 30 installs. Pam: some of the other Towns and when energy audits occurring, it is possible that could piggyback smart thermostat installation at same time which would be 15-minute job. But unclear what type of thermostat would be involved.
- Heat Pumps (Brad) 46. A lot of work will be to follow-up with individuals. Brad has created a spreadsheet and can provide custom estimates. It will be 1-2 hour commitment per household. Could provide suggest list of contractors and could evaluate quotes. Rebates are on order of magnitude of few \$hundred. Provide guidance to homeowners regarding what questions to ask.
- Hot Water (Alan) 55 (35 natural gas). Alan had draft rebate form and had a list of qualified energy heater and taken from MassSave and eliminated all that were low efficiency. Eligible households could be any that are more efficient. Probably of greatest interest to oil heat households. Program would run until middle of June 2018. Maybe anticipate 20 would actually subscribe to this so that would require \$15,000 in rebate funding (\$750 per rebate). Minimum energy factor of 3.
- Appliances (Doug) energy star upgrades 34. Energy Appliance upgrade with energy star. Free clothesline installation is not very expensive.
- LED Makeovers (Pamela). Pam: \$120-\$300/hour quote from a lighting designer. Better to have consultants and panel and town meeting to have explanation of what they can do. That is much less expensive. Lots of the same questions get answered at same time.
- Transportation (Janet). Town has meters that can get special rates and some Towns have special meter with for charging cars.

5.5. Discussion

- Brad: for any rebate, need estimate of what will be provided and what process will be and what level of time commitment required to complete. In some cases, like hot water, home heating and maybe appliances, we would explain how much CO2 and

money individual households might save and then. Expectation is might do these via communication by email.

- Design a rebate form if reasonable and use Fair as base line and add some. And take those estimates to Chris Whelan for sign-off.
- Collect success stories for the website and for the Town.
- Bruce will draft template letter on rebates and circulate to CSEC for electric mower. Who is eligible for it.
- Gilda: to avoid duplication of effort, the rebate forms (and can model on Alan's draft) should borrow from the text we have on our website; and we can borrow as much from MassSave as possible.

6. Energy Future Task Force report, recommendations, & town meeting article

- CSEC will support Article 51, the EFTF's recommended article that is being sponsored by the Select Board. Gilda, Bill and Brad will collaborate on drafting both a letter to Town and to the Concord Journal that will go out under Brad's signature as chair of CSEC indicating CSEC's support for Article 51. It needs to run in the Concord Journal by April 14th, which means it has to be at the Journal no later than Monday, April 10 at 9am. This approach was unanimously supported by CSEC.

7. Public comments

- N/A

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lehr, CSEC clerk

List of Attachments

- 1) CSEC 170313 slides-revised.pdf
- 2) Concord HWHP rebate form-(draft-complete).pdf
- 3) Cooler Concord fair follow-up Mail Chimp Follow Up.pdf